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March 17, 2022

Lieutenant Governor Eleni Kounalakis
President of the Senate
1021 O Street, Suite 8730
Sacramento, CA 95814

The Honorable Anthony Rendon
Speaker of the Assembly
State Capitol Room 219
Sacramento, CA 95814

The Honorable Toni Atkins
President pro Tempore
1021 O Street, Suite 8518
Sacramento, CA 95814

The Honorable Kevin Mullin
Speaker pro Tempore
State Capitol P.O. Box 942849
Sacramento, CA 94249

RE: Lowering California's Gas Prices

Dear President of the Senate Kounalakis, President pro Tempore Atkins, Speaker Rendon, and Speaker pro Tempore Mullin:

Due to the recent increase in California's already high gas prices, I write today urging you to take immediate action to provide financial relief to millions of Californians by reducing the price of gas.

We are in a time of crisis where families across California, including in my home community of the Central Valley, are having to choose between commuting to work and buying groceries. Yet, the State of California has a historically high estimated [budget surplus](#) of \$31 billion for this upcoming fiscal year. **I urge the state legislature to use this surplus to lower gas prices, including but not limited to enacting the [Gas Tax Rebate](#), putting money back into the pockets of hard working Californians.**

Let me be clear, while I support the Gas Tax Rebate, it is just a promising start to ending unsustainable gas prices. It is critical that we enact this rebate in a manner that gets money directly in the hands of Californians as soon as possible. When implementing this rebate, I urge you to prioritize communities, such as the Central Valley, who are hit hardest by the increasing gas prices with the lowest wages across the state.

In light of gas prices skyrocketing, it is especially concerning that the legislature [rejected a proposal](#) that would immediately lower gas prices. California has the [highest gas prices](#) in the nation. With the rising costs of inflation, middle class California families are in dire need of relief. It's time to come together to create an all the above approach to send relief to Californians immediately.

The annual gas tax is set to increase this July from 51.1 to 53.9 cents per gallon. The reason for this increase is, in part, to help fund environmental and infrastructure priorities. I am an ardent

supporter of both these efforts. However, with the influx of federal funding from the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (PL 117 - 58), California stands to gain tens of billions of dollars for both these priorities. We must recognize that we are in a time of crisis. The need to pause this tax increase and provide immediate relief to Californians is now.

I urge you to work with Governor Newsom to pass a comprehensive plan to lower gas prices by enacting the Gas Tax Rebate among other legislative proposals to make living in California affordable. Thank you for your attention to this critical matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Josh Harder". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first letters of "Josh" and "Harder" being capitalized and prominent.

Josh Harder
Member of Congress

